

REMARKS

Attorney docket number

Applicant notes that the attorney docket number has changed.

Status of the claims

Claims 156-162 are pending and under consideration. Claim 26 is cancelled by this response and claims 1-25 and 27-155 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in subsequent and pending applications.

Interview with the Examiner

On May 27, 2008, Applicant's representative, the undersigned, discussed with the Examiner, Mr. Maher Haddad, the various rejections in the Office Action in a telephone conference. Specifically, the undersigned inquired whether amendment of the claims as suggested by the Examiner in Section 7 of the Office Action would overcome all of the outstanding rejections. The Examiner agreed that those amendments would place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the teleconference.

Amendments

Independent claims 156, 159, and 160 were amended as suggested by the Examiner in Section 7 of the Office Action. Dependent claims 157-158 and 161 were amended accordingly. No new subject matter was introduced by the amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 156-162 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, "as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

which applicant regards as the invention". Office Action, Section 7, page 2. According to the Office, the recitation "comprising amino acids" in independent claims 156, 159 and 160 is ambiguous, and as a consequence the claimed fragments of dependent claims 157-158 are ambiguous as well. The Office suggested a possible amendment of the claims that would overcome the rejection. This suggested amendment was exemplified using claim 156, resulting in a claim 156 that reads "a polypeptide comprising the extracellular domain of integrin subunit α 11, wherein the extracellular domain of integrin subunit α 11 consists of amino acids 23-1141 of SEQ ID NO:2." Office Action, Section 7, page 2.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. However, to expedite the prosecution of the instant application, Applicant has amended the rejected claims according to the Office's suggestion.

In light of these amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 156-162 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 156-162 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gullberg et al. (Dev. Dyn. 204:57-65, 1995) (IDS Ref. No. C2), as evidenced by Velling et al. (IDS Ref. No. C5). Office Action, page 3. Applicant respectfully traverses.

However, based on the interview with the Examiner on May 22, 2008 (see above), Applicant presumes that this rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims. Without addressing the rejection further Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 156-162 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 156-162 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gullberg et al. (Dev. Dyn. 204:57-65, 1995) (IDS Ref. No. C2), as evidenced by Velling et al. (IDS Ref. No. C5), in view of US patent No. 5,304,603, 5,726,290, 6,030,947 and/or 5,968,770. Office Action, pages 3-9. Applicant respectfully traverses.

However, based on the interview with the Examiner on May 22, 2008 (see above), Applicant presumes that this rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims. Without addressing the rejection further Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 156-162 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

As Applicant has addressed all of the Examiner's rejections as discussed in the interview on May 22, 2008, Applicant respectfully requests entry and timely allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 408-4173. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 9, 2008

By: 

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